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One by one the double-headed pegs
Pulled with a souseling kiss
From the rain-weak earth.

A rope snapped; a wall flap
Jumped; the tent heaved,
Bulged upward
With scared awkwardness,
And fell on a broken tripod.

The wind, night, rain,
With huge onwardness,
West, south, east, north, poured itself
Bitterly on the flat earth.

Three Nature-whipped sentries,
Tied into their ponchos,
Pried through the heaving night
Like tired swimmers.

TAPS

Into pure night
A strand of golden sound
Weaves a design.

Life woven in sound
Is night and song.

Pathos—of a soul—
Inspires the darkness.

Baker Brownell